



Montana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Billings, Great Falls and Missoula Named Among 25 Best Cities To Find a Job.

Low employment rates are harder to come by in today's economy, but a new report by Careerbuilder.com featured on CNN, names three of Montana's cities among the 25 best cities to find a job. Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly says, "With all the uncertainty going on at the national level, this news is a silver lining in a cloudy financial storm and a reminder that we here in Montana are fortunate."

The report, based on July's unemployment rates released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; says that jobless rates were higher in 338 of the 369 U.S. Metropolitan areas. That means 92% of U.S. cities have seen their unemployment rate go up. 25 areas reported lower rates while six areas reported no change. Billings, Great Falls, and Missoula were named among the cities that reported lower unemployment rates. Other cities listed include Rapid City, South Dakota; Idaho Falls, Idaho; Sioux Falls South Dakota and Salt Lake City Utah.

Based on the latest figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, those three Montana Cities continue to have a low unemployment rate as shown below:

Billings	3.1%	Chicago, IL	6.4%
Great Falls	3.8%	Salt Lake City, UT	3.2%
Missoula	3.8%	Rapid City, SD	2.9%
Detroit, MI	9.6%	Sioux Falls, SD	2.5%
Los Angeles, CA	8.2%	Idaho Falls, ID	3.3%

Earlier this year Forbes Magazine also named Helena as one of America's least vulnerable towns during the economic downturn. "The fact that Montana is being recognized at the national level as one of the few places that continues to move forward, despite what's going nationally; is reassuring and worth giving thanks for this holiday season", says Commissioner Kelly.

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To see the careerbuilders.com article in its entirety go to:

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/LIVING/worklife/11/24/cb.best.cities.find.jobs/index.html>

For the latest figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics go to: <http://www.bls.gov/eag/>